

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

The claims have been amended as follows:

1 5. (Twice Amended) A slider for supporting a magnetic transducer above the
2 surface of a rotating disk medium, said slider comprising:
3 a body;
4 a plurality of rail members extending outward from said body in a direction
5 towards said medium, each of said rail members having a leading and a trailing edge with
6 said leading edge facing in the general direction of relative motion between said
7 transducer and said medium, and wherein said leading edge has a narrower width as
8 compared to said trailing edge, **extends to said body, is spaced from outer side**
9 **surfaces of said body, and is not part of a flat surface;**
10 each of said rail members also having an air-bearing surface which is alternately
11 brought into contact with and separated from said surface of said medium, said air-
12 bearing surface being generally parallel to said surface of said medium.

1 10. (Amended) A slider, comprising:
2 a body;
3 a transducer for transferring information to and from a rotating disk medium
4 during read and write operations; and
5 first and second rails, wherein each of the rails has a leading edge that faces into a
6 general direction of relative motion between the slider and the medium, a trailing edge
7 that faces away from the direction, and an air-bearing surface, the leading edge has a
8 width that is substantially perpendicular to the direction, the trailing edge has a width that
9 is substantially perpendicular to the direction, ~~and the width of the leading edge is~~
10 substantially narrower than the width of the trailing edge, **and the leading edge is a**
11 **pointed tip that extends to the body and is spaced from outer side surfaces of the**
12 **body.**

1 40. (Amended) A slider, comprising:
2 a body;
3 a transducer for transferring information to and from a rotating disk medium
4 during read and write operations; and
5 first and second rails that extend from the body towards the medium, wherein
6 each of the rails has a leading edge that is **part of a curved surface and** faces into a
7 general direction of relative motion between the slider and the medium, a tapered width
8 adjacent to the leading edge, a trailing edge that faces away from the direction, and an air-
9 bearing surface that faces the medium, the leading edge, trailing edge and tapered width
10 extend between the air-bearing surface and the body, and the leading edge is narrower
11 than the trailing edge.

Claims 17-19, 23-28, 41-47, 51-53, 62 and 65 have been cancelled, and claims 70-71
have been added.

REMARKS

Claims 5-16, 20-22, 29-40, 48-50, 54-61, 63-64 and 66-71 are pending. In this Response, claims 5, 10 and 40 have been amended, claims 17-19, 23-28, 41-47, 51-53, 62 and 65 have been cancelled, and claims 70-71 have been added.

I. SECTION 102 REJECTIONS – JP 02-101687

Claims 5, 6, 9-11, 15, 16, 20-22, 30-33, 35-38, 40, 41, 45-47, 51-53, 60, 61, 63-65, 67 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *JP 02-10168*.

JP 02-10168 discloses a slider with two rails. In Figure 1, the leading edge is a pointed tip that is aligned with an outer side surface of the body. In Figure 2, the leading edge has the same width as the trailing edge. In Figure 3, the leading edge is a pointed tip that is spaced from the body. Figures 4(a), 4(b) and 4(c) appear to be alternate views of Figures 2 and 3.

Claim 5 recites that “said leading edge has a narrower width as compared to said trailing edge, extends to said body, is spaced from outer side surfaces of said body, and is not part of a flat surface.” Since the leading edge is spaced from the outer side surfaces of the body, this distinguishes over Figure 1. Since the leading edge has a narrower width as compared to the trailing edge, this distinguishes over Figure 2. Since the leading edge extends to the body, this distinguishes over Figure 3.

Claim 10 recites that “the width of the leading edge is substantially narrower than the width of the trailing edge, and the leading edge is a pointed tip that extends to the body and is spaced from outer side surfaces of the body.” Since the leading edge is spaced from the outer side surfaces of the body, this distinguishes over Figure 1. Since the leading edge is substantially narrower than the trailing edge, this distinguishes over Figure 2. Since the leading edge extends to the body, this distinguishes over Figure 3.

Claim 40 recites that "each of the rails has a leading edge that is part of a curved surface." This distinguishes over Figures 1, 2 and 3.

Under 35 U.S.C. §102, anticipation requires that each and every element of the claimed invention be disclosed in the prior art. *Akzo N.V. v. United States International Trade Commission*, 1 USPQ 2d 1241, 1245 (Fed. Cir. 1986), *cert. denied*, 482 U.S. 909 (1987). That is, the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention. M.P.E.P. § 706.02.

Therefore, Applicant requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

II. SECTION 102 REJECTIONS – INUMOCHI

Claims 5, 7-10, 17-19, 23-28, 30-32, 35-38, 40, 48-50, 54-61, 63, 64, 67 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Inumochi* (U.S. Patent No. 4,939,603).

Inumochi discloses a slider with two rails. Each of the rails includes air-bearing surface 2 and taper 3. Taper 3 is shaped as a projection facing a magnetic medium. Convex imaginary ridge 8 is formed by an intersection between the air-bearing surface 2 and the taper 3. However, ridge 8 is not a leading edge of the rail. Rather, ridge 8 is spaced distance L_1 from the leading edge of the rail. Figure 2A, taken along line IIA—IJA in Figure 1, confirms that the leading edge of the rail has the same width as the trailing edge of the slider.

Claim 5 recites that "said leading edge has a narrower width as compared to said trailing edge." This distinguishes over *Inumochi*.

Claim 10 recites that "the width of the leading edge is substantially narrower than the width of the trailing edge." This distinguishes over *Inumochi*.

Claim 40 recites that "the leading edge is narrower than the trailing edge." This distinguishes over *Inumochi*.

Therefore, Applicant requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

III. SECTION 102 REJECTIONS – JP 63-136370

Claims 5, 6, 9-12, 14, 20, 22, 30, 33, 35-38, 40-42, 44, 51, 60, 62, 65, 67 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *JP 63-136370*.

JP 63-136370 discloses a slider with two rails. The leading edge of the rails is a flat surface with a width S1.

Claim 5 recites that “said leading edge . . . is not part of a flat surface.” This distinguishes over *JP 63-13637*.

Claim 10 recites that “the leading edge is a pointed tip.” This distinguishes over *JP 63-13637*.

Claim 40 recites that “each of the rails has a leading edge that is part of a curved surface.” This distinguishes over *JP 63-13637*.

Therefore, Applicant requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

IV. SECTION 103 REJECTIONS – JP 63-136370 AND YONEOKA ET AL

Claims 13, 29, 34, 43 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *JP 63-136370* in view of *Yoneoka et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,212,608).

Applicant submits these rejections are moot for the reasons set forth above.

V. SECTION 103 REJECTIONS – JP 02-101687 AND YONEOKA ET AL

Claims 13, 29, 34 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *JP 02-10168* in view of *Yoneoka et al.*

Applicant submits these rejections are moot for the reasons set forth above.

VI. SECTION 103 REJECTIONS – INUMOCHI AND YONEOKA ET AL

Claims 29, 34 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Inumochi* in view of *Yoneoka et al.*

Applicant submits these rejections are moot for the reasons set forth above.

VII. SECTION 103 REJECTIONS – INUMOCHI/JP 63-136370/JP 02-101687 AND MORITA ET AL

Claims 39 and 69 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Inumochi* or *JP 63-136370* or *JP 02-10168* in view of *Morita et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,080,948).

Applicant submits these rejections are moot for the reasons set forth above.

VIII. NEW CLAIMS

Claims 70 and 71 represent original claims 12 and 22, respectively, written in independent form.

Claim 70 recites “each of the rails includes a V-shaped portion, a narrow part of the V-shaped portion is the leading edge and a wide part of the V-shaped portion is the trailing edge.” Original claim 12 was rejected over *JP 63-136370*. However, *JP 63-136370* discloses rails in which the leading edge is a flat surface. Therefore, the leading edge is not the narrow part of a V-shaped portion.

Claim 71 recites “each of the rails includes a rectilinear portion between the wedge-shaped portion and the trailing edge, and the narrow part of the wedge-shaped portion is aligned with an inner side of the rectilinear portion and spaced from an outer side of the rectilinear portion.” Original claim 22 was rejected over *JP 02-10168* and *JP 63-136370*. *JP 02-10168* discloses a rail in which the narrow part of the wedge-shaped portion is aligned with an outer side of the rectilinear portion and spaced from an inner side of the rectilinear portion in Figure 1, a rail without a wedge-shaped portion in Figure 2, and a rail in which the narrow part of the

wedge-shaped portion is spaced from the inner and outer sides of the rectilinear portion in Figure 3. JP 63-136370 discloses a rail without a rectilinear portion.

IX. FEES

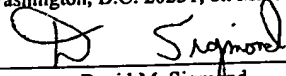
The fee is calculated below:

For	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid For		Extra Claims	Rate		Additional Fee
Total Claims	46	- 65	=	0	x \$18	=	\$0
Independent Claims	5	- 3	=	2	x \$84	=	\$168
Multiple Dep. Claim	0	0			\$280	=	0
Total Fee						=	\$168

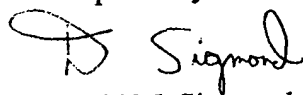
Please charge the \$168 fee and charge any underpayment and credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-0016/149-1-1.

X. CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Should any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 13, 2002.	
	3, 13, 02
David M. Sigmond Attorney for Applicant	Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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